

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Westside Salmon Announcement 26 **Emergency Order 25 and 26**

This is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham with an announcement regarding subsistence and commercial fishing in the Nushagak District. This is Westside salmon announcement number 26 issued Wednesday, July 4 at 12:00 p.m.

As previously announced, commercial fishing with set gillnets in the Nushagak and Igushik Sections of the Nushagak District will open for 7 hours from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. July 4. The Igushik Section only set gillnet fishery will be extended for 25 hours until 9:00 p.m. July 5.

Commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the Igushik Section only will open for 5 hours from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. July 4 and again for 6 hours from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. July 5.

Daily sockeye salmon escapement into the Wood River was 22,590 and the count at 6:00 a.m. was 3,540, making the cumulative 261,852. Daily king salmon escapement into the Nushagak River was 4,542, making the cumulative 55,612. Daily sockeye salmon escapement into the Nushagak River was 10,243, making the cumulative 155,675. Cumulative Igushik River escapement through 6:00 a.m. is 37,464.

The sockeye salmon escapement into the Nushagak River is now projecting a total escapement below the 340,000 minimum required by **5AAC 06.358 WOOD RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON SPECIAL HARVEST AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**. In order to achieve the minimum Nushagak sockeye salmon escapement, it is necessary to fish in the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA). Prior to commercial fishing in the Wood River, the department must close subsistence fishing in the WRSHA. Effective at 1:00 a.m. July 5, subsistence fishing in the WRSHA (the Wood River from Hansen Point to two miles below Silver Salmon Creek) is closed to subsistence fishing until further notice. In order to provide additional subsistence fishing opportunity while the WRSHA is closed to subsistence fishing, the area on the east side of the Wood River below the WRSHA up to Lewis Point on the north shore of the Nushagak River and back down to Nushagak Point on the south shore of the Nushagak that is currently

restricted to 3 days per week will open to subsistence fishing 7 days a week effective at 1:00 a.m. July 5. The west side of the Wood River below the WRSHA and the beaches in front of Dillingham, including Snag Point, Scandinavian Beach, and Kanakanak beach remain on the 3 day per week schedule that was previously announced.

Commercial fishing with set gillnets will be allowed in the WRSHA for 5.5 hours from 2:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. July 5. Commercial fishing with drift gillnets will be allowed in the WRSHA for 6 hours from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. July 5.

The WRSHA will be defined only by latitude and longitude coordinates; there will be no markers. The downstream line is from 59° 06.29' north latitude, 158° 28.84' west longitude to 59° 06.05' north latitude, 158° 29.30' west longitude. The upstream line below the Muklung River is from 59° 09.78' north latitude, 158° 31.99' west longitude to 59° 09.71' north latitude, 158° 32.61' west longitude. The downstream line above the Muklung River is from 59° 10.23' north latitude, 158° 31.43' west longitude to 59° 10.44' north latitude, 158° 31.73' west longitude. The upper upstream boundary is from 59° 12.20' north latitude, 158° 33.12' west longitude to 59° 12.26' north latitude, 158° 33.34' west longitude. Permit holders are further reminded that only 75 fathoms of gear is allowed for drift gillnets and 25 fathoms for set gillnet. Drift gillnet vessels may have up to 150 fathoms of gear on board but gear in excess of 75 fathoms must be in a net or brailer bag. A set net skiff may not have more than 50 fathoms of gillnet on board and any gear in excess of 25 must be in a net or brailer bag. Set gillnet permit holders are also reminded that no permit holder may fish more than one site at any one time.

Processors and tenders please note that the stat code for Wood River drift is 325-40, for Wood River set it is 325-41 and for Igushik Section drift it is 325-10.

Happy 4th of July!

This has been the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham.

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